

THE MISSION OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ANGLICAN CHURCH IS TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST THROUGH SERIOUS DISCIPLESHIP, SACRED WORSHIP AND SELFLESS SERVICE

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The Friars Quill

Growing in Christ

The July 24, 2016 joint meeting of our Bishop's Committee and Transition Team focused on the review of the Tasks and Plans of our ongoing transition. This discussion became more urgent because of the changed situation of Grace Methodist Church that is affecting our stay.

The draft discussion points sought to look at: (a) options in our current stay at Grace: to continue to stay in the hall or to move to the sanctuary and (b) possibilities of making Grace our permanent home should it be available or of continuing our search for a new home.

The need to prioritize the discussion points quickly emerged. This was followed by suggestion of the framing the discussion from the perspective of this question: ***In what space or location is our prospect of growing in Christ as a congregation improved or enhanced?***

To answer this question is to answer the concomitant and corollary questions: lease or purchase; improvements, repairs and maintenance; new place, construction or remodeling? This is the beauty and the grace of the Spirit working and reflected in the gathering and deliberation of our joint committees.

The conversation is continuing in the e-mails. More inputs, more ideas, more clarifications, more suggestions pour in as more parishioners joined in. Let us keep this going and the Lord will bless us all. As the Gospel reading last Sunday tells us: ***"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."***

As I prayed and pondered over this conversation, two thoughts came to my mind. One, I was reminded of the questions Ruth and I asked ourselves years ago when we, as a family, decided to settle in Stockton:

what could we afford to rent or purchase, was the neighborhood safe, was it within a good school district for our children, how about hospitals, bus stops, etc. I remembered our asking Ruth's cousin who was a sheriff, friends who have bought homes, etc. To think of it, these are the same questions practically that we are asking. Where can we grow in Christ as a family of St. Francis?

The second thought that came to my mind was not just the question of growing as a Church family, but the question why are we not growing? I found this question clearly articulated by Rick Warren (*Purpose Driven Church*):

The problem with many churches is that they begin with the wrong question. They ask, "What will make our church grow?" This is a misunderstanding of the issue. It's like saying, "How can we build a wave?" The question we need to ask instead is, "What is keeping our church from growing?" What barriers are blocking the waves God wants to send our way? What obstacles and hindrances are preventing growth from happening?

All living things grow -- you don't have to make them grow. It's the natural thing for living organisms to do if they are healthy. For example, I don't have to command my three children to grow. They naturally grow. As long as I remove hindrances such as poor nutrition or an unsafe environment, their growth will be automatic. If my kids don't grow, something has gone terribly wrong. Lack of growth usually indicates an unhealthy situation, possibly a disease. [pp. 15-16]

These are some thoughts I am contributing to the conversation. My prayer is for more of us will join in.



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Shalom,

I just thought I would start with that beings my trip to Israel is a month away! I wish to thank you for your support allowing me to take this journey. I am excited to go and see the places where Jesus walked and proclaimed the good news.

To recap a bit from my last article in the messenger, I started talking about apologetics. And the importance of learning to defend our beliefs and to make sure our youth get this training for when they venture out to college or in the world, so as to not be led astray. If you remember when someone approaches you with a statement that is contradictory to our beliefs there are three question you are to ask.

They are 1. What do you mean by that: to clarify what you are going to counter. 2. How did you come to that conclusion: this will help in understanding where the question is coming from, and 3. Have you ever considered: this is where you make your case for your beliefs in Christianity. These questions and others that we will go into in the future is called the "ROADRUNNER TACTIC"! Yes like the cartoon, you know where the roadrunner is running along and the coyote tries to catch him? But then the roadrunner stops suddenly at the end of a cliff and the coyote over shoots and stops in midair, well just like that using these tactics leaves the opponent in midair with no ground to stand on!!

The use of these tactics uses a fundamental law known as the law of non-contradiction. What is the law of non-contradiction you ask? This law states that opposite ideas cannot be both and

true at the same time and in the same sense. For example, the earth cannot be both round and not round at the same time in the same sense. We know this law intuitively because it is one of most fundamental laws of thought. As with other laws of logic, the law of non-contradiction is self-evident; you can't prove it, you just know it. You can't discover it by reasoning from other principles, because it is one of the principles you start with to discover everything else!

We use this law to identify what is false, many anti-Christian beliefs and philosophies are false because they violate the law of non-contradiction. In other words they are self-defeating; they don't meet their own standard.

Those who do not believe will try to use truth as the basis for their opposition. We all know that truth is telling it like it is. Atheist try to make truth out as something not absolute. Truth is truth because it is absolute. They will use terms like there is no such thing as truth, that may be true for you but not for me, there is no absolute truth, or all truth is relative. They do not realize that all of these statements about truth are self-defeating.

For example in the first statement the person who claims there is no such thing as truth is in fact making a truth claim, you should ask them is that true, because if it is true then there is no such thing, as there are no truth. See how it is self-defeating? The same with the rest of these claims. That may be true for you but not for me is making it true for all, you could ask is that true just for you, or is it true for everyone, because if it is true for you but not for me then it can't be true. Or there is no absolute truth, again this is making an absolute truth statement, if there is no absolute truth how can you make that statement; you could ask is that absolutely true!

These statement can cause intellectual constipation, as Frank Turek puts it, but once we learn to use this law, we will be on our way toward becoming very effective apologist for Christ. The more we learn how to use this tactic, the easier it will be to see the self-defeating

Sacred Worship

1 I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:1

Psalm 100

- 1 A Psalm for the thank offering. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the lands!
 - 2 Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
 - 3 Know that the LORD is God! It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
 - 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him, bless his name!
 - 5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to all generations.
-

“The church exists primarily for two closely correlated purposes: to worship God and to work for his kingdom in the world ... The church also exists for a third purpose, which serves the other two: to encourage one another, to build one another up in faith, to pray with and for one another, to learn from one another and teach one another, and to set one another examples to follow, challenges to take up, and urgent tasks to perform. This is all part of what is known loosely as fellowship.”

– N.T. Wright, Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense



Sundays

9:30am St Francis of Assisi
Fellowship Hall

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the Month

2pm O'Connor Woods Chapel
3400 Wagner Heights Rd, Stockton



**July Altar Flowers were given to the
Glory of God by**

Ron and Catherine Vaugh in thanksgiving
for the birth of their son, Michael
Diane Stauffer in thanksgiving for her son,
John accomplishment as a lawyer
Peggy Tobias in memory of her Parents
Remy Balagey in thanksgiving for her
birthday
Jerry and Samantha Towne in thanksgiving
for their wedding anniversary
Kathy Lynch in memory of her husband,
Terry



Child Care is Available each Sunday from 9:15am. Please see an Usher for location.

Serious Discipleship



Choir: Upcoming Rehearsals:
August 7th - Pentecost XII

Coffee Hour Hosts: Sign up on calendar
behind food table

Bishop's Committee Meeting: Sunday,
August 28th - 11:00am

Altar Guild: No Meeting

Daughters of the King: August 27th /Fresno

Other Ministry Opportunities

Altar Guild
Acolyte
Lector
Prayer Team
Collection Counter
Hospitality
Daughters of the King
Usher
Flowers
Homebound Ministry
Senior Ministry



August 7th

Genesis 15:1-6

Hebrews 11:1-16

Luke 12:32-40

Psalms 33

August 14th

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Hebrews 12:1-14

Luke 12:49-56

Psalms 82

August 21st

Isaiah 28:14-22

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-29

Luke 13:22-30

Psalms 46

August 28th

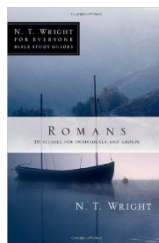
Ecclesiasticus 10:7-18

Hebrews 13:1-8

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Psalms 112

Bill Aaron is leading us on Paul's writings to the Romans using the Study Guide by N.T. Wright's Romans at 8:30am on Sundays.



St Francis uses Flocknote to send emails to our parishioners with notices and information. If you do not receive these notices, we do not have your email. Please put it in the offering plate with your name, give it to Kim or

call the church office 565-0648



Then watch your emails!!!

Selfless Service



August

- 1st Gracy Emmatty
- 4th Joe Dietrich
- 14th Denis Ceballos
- 24th David Lind
- 26th Barbara Moeckel

Deacon Jeff is looking into several ways we can help other churches in Stockton. Please watch for more info.

You can also join him on the first Saturday of every Month under to crosstown freeway to help feed and pray for the homeless. They meet around 11am. See Jeff for more details.



August

- 1st Mr & Mrs Steve Olmsted
- 12th Mr & Mrs Wilson Melchor
- 18th Mr & Mrs Claude Smart
- 21st Mr & Mrs Jim Thompson
- 28th Mr & Mrs Terry Beth
- 31st Mr & Mrs Gary Crowder

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED.....



What is Ray doing with all those plastic bottles and aluminum cans he collects at church?

Ray decided he would like to donate all proceeds from his collections to the Hospitality committee or to Daughters of the King.

So, he would like to encourage you to do the same. If you are unable, you may bring in CA REDEMPTION plastic bottles and aluminum cans to the church and Ray will take care of them. Thank you and God bless you.



Shut-in Outreach

St Francis Church extends the body of Christ to our homebound by sending cards each month. They are available for you to sign on the table as you come in the door. Take a moment and sign them each week. They are so grateful and feel a part of the parish of St Francis with this simple gesture.



Our Diocese of San Joaquin Website:
<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/>

Diocesan Newsletter:
<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/san-joaquin-anglican.html>



THE DIOCESE OF SAN JOAQUIN
ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Eric Vawter Menees, Bishop

Legal Update

July 13, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin:

I am disappointed to inform you that this afternoon, at 5:00 pm, the California State Supreme Court denied our petition for review.

In essence, and practically speaking, this is a conclusion to the case involving the Anglican Diocese Holding Corp. properties. There are three other cases still pending in the lower courts against St. Columba, Fresno; St. Paul, Visalia; and St. John, Porterville.

Our mission in the diocese is to: "Train, Equip, Support and Encourage Clergy and Lay Leaders to Bring People to a Saving Relationship with Jesus Christ." With or without these properties, our mission stays the same.

We made a stand for the gospel of Jesus Christ, and we will continue to do so. We made every effort to do what was right, morally and legally, but the courts decided for The Episcopal Church.

Now is the time for us to begin the process of handing over the properties. We will work with TEC to do this in as gracious and orderly a manner as possible. This will take some time to accomplish, and our legal team will continue to assist us to make sure that all goes smoothly. I will share more information as information becomes available.

In the meantime, I bid your prayers for the Diocese, and especially for all those who have gone before us to lay a foundation firmly on the solid rock of Jesus Christ! Please join me in expressing gratitude to Rusty vanRozeboom and Allen Haley, along with their team, who fought valiantly on our behalf.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and grant you peace.

Your Servant & Bishop,

The Rt. Rev. Eric Vawter Menees

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August 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 The Transfiguration
7 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 14 9:30am Holy Eucharist	8	9	10 2pm Holy Eucharist - O'Connor Woods	11	12	13
14 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 15 9:30am Holy Eucharist	15 St Mary, the Virgin	16	17	18	19	20
21 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 16 9:30am Holy Eucharist	22	23	24 St Bartholomew, Apostle 2pm Holy Eucharist - O'Connor Woods	25	26	27
28 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 17 9:30am Holy Eucharist Bishop's Committee Meeting	29	30	31			

The Messenger
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 St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church
 Editor - Staff
 The Rev. Woodrow Gubuan - Vicar & Publisher
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 Deacon Hugh Cooke
 Kimberly Combs - Parish Administrator
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 '16 Joe Dietrich, Bernard Thomas
 '17 Nancy Thomas, Bill Aaron
 '18 Jim Telander, Rachel Allanigue

LIVING OUT THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES AT HOME

Love Language	Actions	Communication	Avoid
Words of Affirmation	Spoken words Written cards and letters	Encouraging words Compliments Affirming spirit	Emotionally harsh words Undue criticism
Quality Time	Running errands Taking trips Doing things together Going on walks Sitting/talking at home	Quiet places with no interruptions Undivided attention One-to-one conversations	Too much time with friends or groups Isolation Gaps of time between meetings
Receiving Gifts	Giving gifts Giving time Remembering special occasions Giving small tokens	Private giving of gifts Pleasant facial expressions	Materialism Forgetting special events
Acts of Service	Assisting with house chores Ongoing acts of helpfulness Exchanging of chores	Say: "What can I do for you?" "I will stop and get..." "Today, I did... for you." Making a checklist	Forgetting promises Over commitment of tasks Ignoring
Physical Touch	Hugs Pats Touches Sitting close	Pleasant facial expressions Mostly non-verbal	Physical abuse Corporal punishment Threats Neglect

* Taken from Gary Chapman's The Five Love Languages of Teenagers




Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be
consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal
Life. Amen

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